been imported with a view to prevent misutilisation of imported "crude drugs" for the manufacture of consumer items other than Ayurvedic and Unani medicines.

No separate statistics relating to export and import of herbs are maintained.

Export of Pepper

*191. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :
SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of pepper exported during the last three years, yearwise and country-wise;

(b) what has been the surplus left in the country after the export, each year;

(c) what had been the internal consumption of pepper during this period, each year;

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a steep fall in the prices of pepper in the market;

(e) whether Government propose to procure pepper in order to maintain the price in the market and export them; and

(f) if not, what other steps are proposed to be taken to sustain a reasonable price for pepper in the market ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House as Annexure.
[*See* Appendix CLXVII, Annexure No. 15]

(b) and (c) The production of pepper during the last three years has been in the range of 48,000-55,000 MTs, whereas exports have been in the range of 26,000 MTs to 30,000 MTs. It can be safely presumed that the surplus left has been the internal consumption.

(d) The wholesale prices of black pepper have shown a declining and fluctuating trend as compared to the prices in the previous years

(e) Ministry of Agriculture has approved a scheme for market intervention for black pepper for implementation in Kerala through designated Central and State Agencies.

(f) Does not arise.

Steps to boost Exports

*192. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports have been showing a sluggish growth;

(b) whether there is a need to launch a vigorous drive for exploring new markets for exports;

(c) whether the involvement of Indian Missions abroad in country's export efforts are also inadequate; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to boost exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) :

(a) Exports during April-February, 1992-93 the latest period for which such data is available, have registered a growth of 2.81 per cent in US dollar terms, over the corresponding period of last year.

(b) Steps taken to develop new markets include provision of assistance for market survey, commodity research, participation in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions abroad. Besides continuing efforts to boost exports to General Currency Area countries, steps are being taken to bring about a revival of exports